

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-81 (cancelled).

82. (currently amended) A method for providing directory assistance services to a caller comprising:

receiving a call from a caller using a communication device, the call including a directory assistance request;

in response to the directory assistance request, attempting to establish a telephonic connection between the caller and a destination party;

detecting a connection status signal concerning an establishment of the telephonic connection;

determining that the connection status signal indicates a non-answering condition;

in response to the connection status signal, automatically presenting to the caller an option to receive a telephone number associated with the destination party by pressing a predetermined key on the communication device; and

providing to the caller the telephone number associated with the destination party when the caller presses the predetermined key on the communication device.

83. (cancelled).

84. (new) The method of claim 82, further comprising:

providing to the caller an alphanumeric message comprising at least the telephone number associated with the destination party.

85. (new) The method of claim 84, further comprising:
providing the alphanumeric message to an alphanumeric pager associated with the caller.

86. (new) The method of claim 84, further comprising:
sending the alphanumeric message to a paging server maintained by a service carrier associated with the caller.

87. (new) The method of claim 84, further comprising:
providing the alphanumeric message to a wireless telephone associated with the caller.

87. (new) The method of claim 84, further comprising:
addressing the alphanumeric message to an automatic numbering identification ("ANI") received during the call.

88. (new) The method of claim 84, wherein the alphanumeric message further comprises a name of the destination party.

89. (new) The method of claim 88, wherein the alphanumeric message further comprises an address of the destination party.

90. (new) The method of claim 82, further comprising:

providing to the caller a verbalization of each digit of the telephone number associated with the destination party.

91. (new) A system for providing directory assistance services comprising:

an interface configured to:

receive a call from a caller using a communication device, the call including a directory assistance request; and

at least one processor configured to:

in response to the directory assistance request, attempt to establish a telephonic connection between the caller and a destination party;

detect a connection status signal concerning an establishment of the telephonic connection;

determine that the connection status signal indicates a non-answering condition;

in response to the connection status signal, automatically present to the caller an option to receive a telephone number associated with the destination party by pressing a predetermined key on the communication device; and

provide to the caller the telephone number associated with the destination party when the caller presses the predetermined key on the communication device.

92. (new) The system of claim 91, wherein the at least one processor is further configured to:

provide to the caller an alphanumeric message comprising at least the telephone number associated with the destination party.

93. (new) The system of claim 92, wherein the at least one processor is further configured to:

provide the alphanumeric message to an alphanumeric pager associated with the caller.

94. (new) The system of claim 92, wherein the at least one processor is further configured to:

send the alphanumeric message to a paging server maintained by a service carrier associated with the caller.

95. (new) The system of claim 92, wherein the at least one processor is further configured to:

provide the alphanumeric message to a wireless telephone associated with the caller.

96. (new) The system of claim 92, wherein the at least one processor is further configured to:

address the alphanumeric message to an automatic numbering identification ("ANI") received during the call.

97. (new) The system of claim 92, wherein the alphanumeric message further comprises a name of the destination party.

98. (new) The system of claim 97, wherein the alphanumeric message further comprises an address of the destination party.

99. (new) The system of claim 91, wherein the at least one processor is further configured to:

provide to the caller a verbalization of each digit of the telephone number associated with the destination party.